

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6903

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03573

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV EEC WB GW US UK FR

SUBJECT: BERLIN AND DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT

REFS: (A) USBER 401; (B) BONN 3348

1. IN TRIPARTITE BONN GROUP MEETING ON MARCH 2, FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) SAID THE FRENCH HOPED THE THREE ALLIES COULD AGREE VERY QUICKLY TO THE FRG DRAFT DECLARATION ON MODALITIES OF INDIRECT ELECTION OF BERLINERS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. BOISSIEU SAID THE FRENCH CONSIDERED THE FRG PROPOSAL (FOR ELECTION OF BERLINERS BY THE BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES) TO BE THE CORRECT ONE. HE HAD HEARD, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OTHER GERMAN OFFICIALS HAD OTHER IDEAS WHICH WOULD BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE ALLIES TO ACCEPT. FOR THAT REASON, HE URGED EARLY ALLIED ACTION.

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2. BOISSIEU ALSO REPORTED ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE

REACTIONS FROM PARIS TO THE BRITISH PROPOSALS WHICH UK REP HAD MADE AT FEBRUARY 24 BONN GROUP MEETING (REF B). IN PARTICULAR, PARIS OBJECTED TO THE IDEA OF INCORPORATING THE BERLIN PROPOSALS IN A PROTOCOL TO THE NEW EC CONVENTION. THE FRENCH DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO CHANGE THE ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES FOR EXTENDING TREATIES TO BERLIN, NOR WOULD THEY WISH TO "COMMUNITY-IZE" DECISIONS CONCERNING BERLIN.

3. ON THE BRITISH SUGGESTIONS FOR TEXTUAL CHANGES (PARA 3, REF B), BOISSIEU REPORTED THE FOLLOWING REACTIONS:

A. WHILE THE FRENCH AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO USE SOME WORD SUCH AS "SENT," THEY HAD NO REAL PROBLEM WITH THE GERMAN TEXT'S REFERRING TO THE BERLINERS AS BEING "GEWAEHLT." IN SUBSTANCE THEY DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD REALLY MATTER, AND THEY WOULD PROPOSE ASKING THE FRG TO HAVE "GEWAEHLT" TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH AS "CHOSEN" RATHER THAN "ELECTED," AND INTO FRENCH AS "CHOISI."

B. PARIS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE FRG TO ACCEPT THE UK PROPOSAL THAT THE BERLINERS NOT BE DESCRIBED AS BEING FROM AMONG THOSE APPORTIONED TO THE FRG, BUT THOUGHT SOME ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATE WORDING MIGHT BE WORKED OUT.

C. THE FRENCH AGREED THAT IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO START THE SECOND PARAGRAPH OF THE FRG DECLARATION WITH "SUBJECT TO," BUT WOULD NOT INSIST ON THIS. THE PRESENT GERMAN FORMULATION COULD IMPLY THAT THE LIMITATION ON METHOD OF ELECTION IS THE ONLY NECESSARY RESERVATION CONCERNING BERLIN, WHICH IS NOT THE CASE.

D. THE FRENCH WOULD VERY MUCH OPPOSE USE OF "BERLIN (WEST)."

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOT HEARD FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE OF ANY CONTROVERSY WITHIN GERMAN CIRCLES OVER THE FONOFF PROPOSAL THAT DEPUTIES FROM BERLIN BE ELECTED BY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. NEVERTHELESS, WE WOULD AGREE WITH BOISSIEU THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO NAIL DOWN AGREEMENT ON THIS ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM QUICKLY. WE THEREFORE REITERATE OUR REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE ON THE FRG DRAFT.
HILLENBRAND

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